

Docket No.: 570-28 PCT/US

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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Houthoff et al.

Examiner: Sisson, B.

Serial No: 09/402,707

Group Art Unit: 1655

Filed: 10/08/99

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For: METHODS FOR LABELING
NUCLEOTIDES, LABELED
NUCLEOTIDES AND USEFUL
INTERMEDIATES

Dated: February 14, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231Official
2/14/01
B. F. J.**SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Further to the amendment filed January 4, 2001, applicants wish to make the following additional statements for consideration by the examiner. Applicants very much appreciate Examiner Sisson's agreeing to conduct a personal interview with their representative, the undersigned, on March 1, 2001. At the interview, applicants' representative wishes to discuss the scope of the claims, and claim 23 in particular.

On page 13, of the amendment of January 4, 2001, applicants pointed out that new independent claim 23 is somewhat narrower in scope than original independent claim 1. In particular, applicants noted that the term "stabilizing bridge" in claim 1 is now limited to aliphatic diamines. See page 14, line 1, *et seq.*

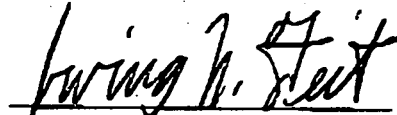
Applicants wish further to point to an additional difference between claim 23 and original claim 1, now cancelled. As noted on page 15, the third paragraph, the definition of the spacer in new claim 23 is defined as having four atoms. In original claim 1, the spacer was defined as a chain having at least four atoms and at least one heteroatom. Support for the spacer's being at least four carbon atoms long is found in the specification at page 4, lines 30-32 ("...for avoiding steric hindrance in

incorporation of the nucleotide into the nucleic acid (the spacer) should at least be four atoms long").

Applicants again thank the examiner for agreeing to the interview on March 1, 2001.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or additional fees associated with this Supplemental Response or to credit any over-payment, to deposit account number 08-2461. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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